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HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19TH, 1887.

三拜禮

號九月正英港香

PRICE \$2 PER MONTH

## SHIPPING.

### ARRIVALS.

January 17, DARDANUS, British steamer, 1,533, Purdy. Liverpool 4th December, and Singapore 11th January, General—BUTTERFIELD & SWINE.

January 18, FOXSANG, British steamer, 900, Hogg. Shanghai 14th January, and Swatow 17th, General—JARDINE, MATTHESON & CO.

January 18, GLENNOLE, British steamer, 2,000, Hogg. Shanghai 15th January, General—JARDINE, MATTHESON & CO.

January 18, FENOMA, British steamer, 67, H. Harris, Taiyuan 13th January, Amoy 14th, and Swatow 17th, General—DOUGLAS LAPPACK & CO.

January 18, DECIMA, German steamer, 365, P. Oestmann, Saigon 13th January, Rice—SHEPPARD & CO.

January 18, MARIE, German steamer, 704, J. Hollmann, Haiphong 16th January, General—WIELKE & CO.

January 18, ZAFIRO, British steamer, 875, Talbot, Manila via Amoy 17th January, General—EVANS & CO.

January 18, KOWSHING, British steamer, 1,354, Bahama Whampoa 17th January, General—JARDINE, MATTHESON & CO.

CLEARANCES.

AT THE HONGKONG MASTERS' OFFICE.

18TH JANUARY.

Polian, British str., for Amy.

Leveridge, British str., for Manila.

Glenys, British str., for Singapore.

### DEPARTURES.

January 18, SARTORI, French str., for Haiphong.

January 18, SIGNAL, German str., for Hoichow.

January 18, PHOENIX, German str., for Bangkok.

January 18, NAMOA, British str., for Amoy.

January 18, DESDFELD, British str., for Kobe.

January 18, MARE, Lane, British steamer, for Singapore.

KELLY & WALSH, LIMITED,

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JUST PUBLISHED.

Shanghai Nautical Pocket Manual, 1887.

Chinese Games of Chance, by Ng Kwei-shang, Banking in India; a very interesting treatise on Corporation and its prevention in hot climates.

Imperial English & Chinese Date Book, 1887.

Imperial English & Chinese Diary, 1887.

Mayors' Chinese Government—New Edition.

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HONGKONG, 7th September, 1886.

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HONGKONG, 6th January, 1887.

For M. ARTHUR'S ACT.

Bellona (s.), Yokohama, Nov. 23

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Hector (s.), Hamburg, Nov. 24

Abury (s.), Glasgow, Nov. 27

Geo. F. Moore, London via London, Nov. 27

Austral (s.), London, Nov. 29

Mosser (s.), London, Dec. 2

Cyclops (s.), London, Dec. 2

Port Sopanhan (s.), Shanghai, Dec.





## EXT. ACTS.

## A CULPRIT.

The maiden aint, in her straight-backed chair, With a flush on her pale and wrinkled cheek, And a horrified, mortified, mystified air, Was just about to speak.

And the maid's aint—a nice little maid— Stood quickly twisting her thumbs about; With a half-sigh, half-laugh, half-sigh,

And wholly bewitching point.

Said the maid's aint: "Will you please explain What your heads were doing so close together? You could easily, I assure you, Jane! Have knocked me down with a feather!"

"When I think of you bringing up my case, My scruples ease—and it's come to this? You Appear to be letting him fully there, And letting a young man kiss you!"

"Now tell me once just what he said, And what you replied. This is quite a trial, So do not stand there and hang your head, Or attempt the least denial!"

"If I catch you once more in such a fix, Then's you're sixpence. I can tell you, Jane, I shall treat you just as if you were six."

— "Are you going to tell me what he said? And what you said? I'll not stand this trifling, So look at me, Jane! Lift up your head!

"Don't go on as if you were stifling!"

Her voice was shaken—drown with fear.

"He said—he said! 'Will you have me, Jane?' And I said I would. But, indeed, aint, dear, We'll never do again!"

MARGARET VANDERHOFF, in American Paper.

## E MANNERS OF THE LONDON DRAWING-ROOM.

The hearty British shake of the hand is passing out of existence (writes the London correspondent of the *Sheffield Independent*)—indeed, within the last few years the move in the London drawing-room has been distinctly towards ushing in by.

For instance, it is now the rage, and has been for some time, not to introduce any persons at all.

The other day I paid a visit to a house. In the drawing-room were the daughter of the lady of the house and her husband. The young gentleman was not introduced either to me or my companion. What was one to do under such circumstances? You were on the horns of the perfect dilemma of not knowing whether to ignore or to acknowledge the young gentleman. In another house lately I was left without being introduced to two young ladies who were on a visit to their brother. Then the sex, after their fashion, have exaggerated these absurdities. You are introduced to a lady. The proper form of nowadays acknowledging the introduction is for the lady to give the least nod of her head and a nod to the left, and not in front, as used to be the old, graceful style. Finally, it is ladies—and especially young ladies—that cultivate the lateral style of shaking hands, which was introduced by some idiotic dudie, and has been largely adopted.

## AN AFGHAN STATUE LARGER THAN LIBERTY.

At Bamian, on the principal road between Cabul and Balkh, Afghanistan, there are said to be two mammoth statues, one of which measures 173 feet. This statue is of Buddha, and stands in a niche which has been cut out so as to leave the figure formed of rock within the niche. If the measurement of the statue is correct, then Liberty Enlightening the World can no longer claim to be the largest statue in the world.

Liberty is only 151 feet high, exclusive of her pedestal, and is now only a question as to whether the height of the Bamian statue has been correctly given. The measurement of the statue was made by Captain of the Hou. M. G. Talbot, R.E., a member of the British Boundary Commission, who is said to have used a theodolite, and thereby insured the accuracy of his calculations.

The existence of the great statues of Bamian has long known to Indian archaeologists, but correct drawings of them, or reliable measurements, have never been brought home till now.

Bamian is on the road between Cabul and Balkh, where it crosses the Paropanisus range. The situation is high, being somewhere about 8,500 feet above the sea. The rock is conglomerate, or pudding stone, of which there is a high cliff in the valley. It is at this period, probably during the first centuries of the Christian era, Buddhist monks excavated caves. These are in large numbers at Bamian—"extending for miles"—but there are numerous groups of caves besides, extending northward along the road as far as Halibak.—*New York Star*.

## THE CHRISTMAS TREE.

In the ninth month of the Jewish year, corresponding nearly to our December, and the twenty-fifth day, the Jews celebrated the feast of Dedication of their Temple. It had been desecrated on that day by Antiochus; it was dedicated by Judas Macabaeus, and then, according to the Jewish legend, sufficient oil was found in the temple last for the seven-branched candlestick; for seven days, and it had lasted seven days to prepare new. Accordingly the Jews were wont on the twenty-fifth of Kislev in every house to light a candle, on the next day two, and so on, till upon the seventh and last day of the feast seven candles twinkled in every house. It is not easy to fit the exact date in the calendar, but it fell, most probably, on the last day of Kislev, when every Jewish house in Bethlehem and Jerusalem was twinkling with lights. It is worthy of notice that the German name for Christmas is Weihnacht, the Night of Dedication, though it was associated with the feast. The Greeks also call Christmas the Feast of Lights; and indeed this was also a name given to the Dedication Festival, Chonukh, by the Jews. In every house the seven-branched lamp, or seven-branched candlestick, symbolized the seven-branched candlestick in the Temple. This latter was, moreover, made like a tree, and each lamp was like a flower on the tree. Light thus conveys the description given of it in Exodus. "The foot was gold, from which went up a shaft, straight, which was the middle light. Near the foot was a golden dish wrought alabaster, and above that a golden knob; and above that a golden flower. Then two branches, one on each side, bowed, and coming up, as high as the middle of the shaft. On each of them were three golden cups, placed alabaster in sharp scallop-shell fashion, above which was a golden knob, a golden flower, and the socket. Above the branches at the middle shaft was a golden bowl, above which rose two shafts more; above the curving out of these was another, and two more shafts, and then on the shafts upwards were three golden sculpions, a knob, and a flower; so that the heads of the branches stood at an equal height." This is according to the representation of the candlestick on the Arch of Titus. Many seven-branched candlesticks were in use in the German churches in the Middle Ages; the most magnificent that remains is one in the cathedral of Ester, dating from 1003, standing near nine feet high. Another is at Brunswick, standing fourteen and a half feet high. Many others exist. The writer saw a very beautiful ironwork stand of seven candles in Iceland, made in imitation of an-

galia leaves. He was told this was only lighted on Christmas Eve. In Milan is one of the thirteenth century, called the Tree of the Virgin with four rivers represented as issuing from the base. Ypres still had but three. A superb tree of seven branches was presented to Canterbury in the twelfth century; another to Winchester by King Canute in 1035. Anthony Beck, Bishop of Durham, bequeathed what seems to have been one of silver gilt, with an image of the Virgin and Child at the foot, to his cathedral. The Blessed Virgin was the place of the Nurse. Hethel, by the well or spring. A seven-branched candlestick remains at Lichfield, several remain in France, at Lyons, Angers, Tours, Vienne. They were placed at the entrances to the choir, and were certainly lighted at the midnight mass on Christmas Eve, as the Paschal Candle was lighted at Easter.—*Cornhill Magazine*.

## QUEER STORY.

## THE LANGLEY DURDLE.

The large party assembled as usual at Langley Towers to celebrate in approved fashion the approaching 1st of September were all collected ... one night after dinner in the drawing-room, when the conversation, hitherto rather languid, turned to turn on a burglary that had lately taken place in the neighbourhood. Even one at once seized on the topic, and proceeded to relate more or less irrelevant, but all alike grisly, stories of famous burglars and robbers, till suddenly Miss Cecil Clifford, a cousin of Lady Langley's, a very pretty girl, and a heiress to boot, whistled hitherto unknown in the talk, looked up suddenly, and said:—

"I do wish you would not discuss such horrors! How do you expect us to sleep quietly in our beds if you will insist on relating such grisly stories, especially as those wretches who broke into G. on Park are still at large? I feel as if I should rouse the house with a false alarm, don't blame me!"

"I think I should die if I were to wake and see one in my room!" exclaimed Little Lady Langley, shrugging her pretty white shoulders in not wholly affected fright.

"At all events, the man would not trouble you long with his company if that tree were on your dressing-table as usual," returned her cousin.

"I know you'll be murdered through those diamonds one day!"

"Do you really mean that? Lady Langley had jewels on her dressing-table?" asked Captain Le Marchant, an impudent young man, who was suspected, on very good grounds, of being an thief with the pretty heiress, and who was, in consequence, rather out of favour with her guardians.

"To be sure she does," laughed his host; "and, as Cecil says, I know we shall wake some fine morning to find ourselves corpses because of that whim of hers."

"What's the use of having jewellery if it is always to be at the banker's?" retorted Lady Langley.

"I wish to goodness you'd be sensible, Flora!" remonstrated her cousin, "and have kept in the plate-room, at all events, I know that I shall do nothing but dream of your diamonds!"

Lady Langley laughed gaily, and seemed to take a malicious pleasure in keeping the conversation on the same subject, despite her cousin's evident dislike of it, in which she was assisted by Captain Le Marchant, who chaffed Miss Clifford a good deal about her nerves, until the party separated for the night.

Next morning the house was in confusion, for the diamonds were gone!

Lady Langley missed them the moment she rose, for her maid being far from well at the time, she had bidden the girl not stir up for her, and had undressed herself, leaving her diamonds which she had been wearing loose on her dressing-table, where Cecil Clifford found them when she came to her cousin's room to bid her good-night as usual, and she put them in their case. Of course, every hole and corner was searched, but in vain. The police came, but were equally unsuccessful. Not a trace of either the thieves or the jewellery was to be found. The police, including the detective hastily summoned from London, were positive that the robbery had been committed by some one in the house—a conviction that did not add to the comfort of the inmates of Langley Towers. Suspicion ran riot; the household servants—one and all, belonged to respectable families in the neighbourhood, and had mostly been for considerable periods in the Langley's service; while the visitors' servants, as it happened, seemed equally above suspicion. The only persons who ventured to differ from the officials was Captain Le Marchant, who openly pooh-poohed the whole thing as simply invented by the police to screen their own incompetence.

Whether from conviction or opposition, Miss Clifford embraced the police theory, and before long her suspicious fell on the maid of one of the visitors, who she felt convinced was at least an accomplice. Unfortunately for this poor girl, Cecil Clifford confided her doubts to her cousin, who in turn unconsciously betrayed them to the detective, so the unlucky maid was immediately placed under surveillance that roared her a burden to her, and ultimately cost her her life.

Captain Le Marchant remonstrated several times on the subject with his fiancee (for she really was, though the engagement was not officially acknowledged), but without effect. She somehow seemed to distrust him, as for some cause or other, his usually sunny temper had quite deserted him; his tongue had acquired a bitterness now to his friends; whilst his handsome, merry face had grown to look worn and haggard.

Miss Clifford, though still persisting in her opinion, bore his strictures with gentle patience, laying the very evident temper he showed to the account of some money troubles that she well knew were worrying him; but at last he went too far, and as their interview on this occasion terminated the engagement between them, was summarily broken off by the lady.

Captain Le Marchant never took any steps to bring about a reconciliation, which, on her side, Cecil Clifford was far too proud to dream of, though what the estrangement cost her only she could have told him. All she knew about him was that he had exchanged into a regiment stationed in India, and beyond one's hearing, when he had returned home after his tour, he was received with a coolness which she well knew were worrying him; but at last he went too far, and as their interview on this occasion terminated the engagement between them, was summarily broken off by the lady.

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